

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 30, 2004, **TRAVIS ELAM**, age 30, of Watson, Illinois, was sentenced today to 240 months' imprisonment, 10 years' supervised release, a \$200 fine and a \$100 special assessment, for Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. There is no parole in the federal system. The conspiracy operated in and around Effingham County, Illinois, from January 2001 through November 2003 when members of the conspiracy were arrested.

Other co-conspirators previously sentenced in the case include **TRAVIS TARRANT**, age 25, of Watson, Illinois (87 months' imprisonment), **SHAWN RUSSELL**, age 25, formerly of Effingham County, Illinois (192 months imprisonment), **SHAWN WOLFF**, age 30, of Effingham County, Illinois (135 months imprisonment), **THOMAS CURRY**, age 23, of Effingham County (96 months imprisonment), **CHARLES LOGSDON**, age 45, of Coles County, Illinois (134 months imprisonment), and **CASEY ARTERBURN**, age 21, of Effingham County, Illinois (120 months imprisonment).

The others who have pled guilty to the conspiracy in the case and are awaiting sentencing are **ANDREW WELLS**, age 22, of Effingham County, **KEVIN BARNFIELD**, age 25, formerly of Effingham County, and **DAMON SKAGGS**, age 24, formerly of Effingham County, Illinois. **WELLS, AND SKAGGS** face a penalty of not less than 10 years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment, a \$4 million fine, and at least 5 years' supervised release. **WELLS'** sentencing date is November 18, 2004; **SKAGGS'** sentencing date is October 21, 2004. **BARNFIELD** faces not less than 5 years up to 40 years imprisonment, a \$2 million fine, and 4 years supervised release. His sentencing date is November 19, 2004.

The ongoing investigation is being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Effingham County Sheriff's Department, the Effingham City Police Department, and other local law enforcement agencies, in cooperation with the Effingham County State's Attorney Edward Deters. The ongoing investigation is conducted as part of the Effingham County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of drugs and guns. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kit Morrissey.